News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 4 January 2021
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 44 #2

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. We are asking everyone to register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance. **Check our website for information about registering or changes in venue: https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org. or our Facebook page located at: https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.**

Upcoming Meetings Winter 2021:
Sunday, January 24, 2021: "Researching Revolutionary America" presented by Dr. John G. McCurdy. **Class: "Black Loyalists in the Revolutionary War"** presented by Cheryl Garnett.

Sunday, February 28, 2021: "African Americans in Michigan" presented by DeWitt Dykes. **Class: Local Library Resources: Clements Library** (by Angela Oonk), **Bentley Historical Library** (by Ceci Rieker).

Sunday, March 28, 2021: "Immigration and Naturalization Records" presented by Jeff Mason. **Class: "Using the Quantity of Shared DNA to Answer Genealogical Questions"** presented by Dr. James Sims.

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Report on Recent Meetings:
October 25, 2020: "Scotch-Irish Research" presented by Derek Blount. Mr. Blount focused on who the Scots-Irish are, where they came from and where they can be found. He also discussed what records are available, what is online and what records are not digitized.

Mr. Blount emphasized that you must learn the history around your individual. He prefers the term Ulster-Scots instead of Scotch-Irish since Ulster is the origin of the Scots who emigrated to America and Canada,

Mr. Blount briefly detailed the history of the Ulster-Scots. In 1609, James I organized Ulster Plantations forcing the Irish off their lands which were confiscated by the Crown after the Nine Year's War in Ireland. Scottish adults migrated to Ulster beginning in 1642. In 1710, the 20-year leases of 1690 expired, and rents doubled or tripled. As a result, immigration of Ulster-Scots to America and Canada rose.

Some of the sources he discussed were: Tenison Groves Collection, Summonister Rolls, Fiants of the Tudor Sovereigns; rentals and leases, and election, grand jury, and military records.

The National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland are excellent resources. If you have additional questions, Mr. Blount can be contacted at his email address: DavidJBount@gmail.com.

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Genealogy Webinars and Podcasts" presented by Omer Jean Winborn and Sharon Brevoort.

Sharon Brevoort defined a webinar as an audio or video presentation given over the internet and a podcast as audio only. Her excellent handout and her slides are available on the washtenawgenealogy.org website under "Public Downloads".

She suggested some places to find webinars: ConferenceKeeper, GeneaWebinars, the Genealogy Reporter, Amie Bowser Tennant, and Legacy Tree Genealogists. She provided tips on selecting a provider and how to cite a webinar in footnotes. She offered cautions about violating copyrights with screenshots. She discussed in depth several of the providers, their strengths and information on how to sign up. The "Podcasts" section in her handout covers more than 20 producers, including some ethnic specific ones. These are divided into active and discontinued producers.

Omer Jean Winborn spoke about "Webinars, Websites and Blogs" that are African American specific. She highlighted several famous African Americans with ties to genealogy, among them were: **Tony Burroughs**, the author of "Black Roots"; **Nicka Smith**, host of a YouTube channel show titled "BlackProGen Live"; and **Robyn Smith** who has a blog "Reclaiming Kin".

The GU272 Memory Project is documenting descendants of the slaves that were sold by the priests to keep the Georgetown University going in the early years. They have identified 8,000 descendants. Of the surnames identified, Omer Jean has matches with all but 5 of them.

Other sources: Digital Diary of American Slavery, Freedman's Bureau, and the Slave Narratives a 1930 WPA Project available through the Library of Congress (loc.gov) then enter "slave narratives" in the search box. These were done in 1936–1938.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

November 22, 2020: "Windmills and Wooden Shoes: Dutch Research" presented by Megan Heyl.

Among the many facts Ms. Heyl shared about Holland, Michigan, is that there are 17 cities in the United States called Holland of which Michigan's is the largest. She covered religious affiliations and traditions such as Dutch Traditional Christmas and Queen's Day Market.

When researching Dutch ancestors, it is best to start your research with the land in the United States and the name of the immigration ship. Other things might include traditions such as naming patterns and locating postcards.

Other resources: genealogical societies; churches; professional Dutch organizations; internet resources; Facebook; libraries and reference books.

If you have additional questions, Ms. Heyl can be contacted at huntingdownhistory@gmail.com.

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Colorizing Black and White Digital Photographs" presented by Mike Gerding and Mike Christiaens. Mike Gerding is currently class coordinator for the GSWC monthly meetings, active member of the DNA SIG and head of the German SIG.

He discussed two of the options for adding color to old photos: MyHeritage in Color, and Adobe Photo Shop Elements (PSE). The survey taken before the meeting showed that 5 members use MyHeritage, 3 use PSE and 1 both, while 38 of the responders had used neither. Mike Christiaens, who has been a GSWC member for over 25 years, shared his experience with PSE, demonstrating how colorization can add depth and life to photos. The class handout is found under "Public Downloads" on the GSWC website: washtenawgenealogy.org.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Items: Many thanks to Ed Redmer, Web Committee Chair, and Marcia McCrary, keeper of many GSWC records, who sprang into action to back up our website files—our site hosting service is going out of business in June. This impacts many genealogical societies who have been using the same host service, which can be considered good news, as we all have similar needs and can share information and experience as we look to transition our content to new hosts. The goal is to make this transition seamless, with as few interruptions in service as possible. Your patience is appreciated through this time.

Nancy Howard, GSWC President

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The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, January 12, 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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The **DNA Special Interest Group** will meet on Saturday, January 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. on Zoom. Contact GSWC member Rodger Wolf if you are not on the DNA mailing list: rawolf@umich.edu.

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The **German Special Interest Group** will meet on January 5, 2021 from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Mike Gerding at GermanSIG@comcast.net for more information.

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